

EMERGENCY IRRIGATION

Who can apply for an emergency irrigation permit? A person that owns land abutting a stream, river, flowage or lake that is connected to a stream are generally considered riparian owners. You must be a riparian owner to have water rights and be eligible for an emergency irrigation permit.

Emergency irrigation permits can only be issued for watering agricultural crops, vegetables or berries, tree farms or tree nurseries. Any other proposed irrigation (i.e. watering greens or fairways at a golf course) are not eligible for emergency irrigation.

How do I apply for an emergency irrigation permit? Contact your nearest DNR Service Center and be prepared to provide the following information.

- Directions to the location of your proposed diversion.
- Your full name, address and telephone number, cell phone number and email address.
- The name of the waterway you are proposing to divert from, a description of the current land use for which the water will be applied (corn, soybeans, hay, etc).
- The area of cropland to be irrigated (e.g., 10 acres, 20 acres, etc.)
- The method or means by which the water will be removed from the waterbody (e.g., 150 horsepower diesel engine capable of pumping 500 gallons of water per minute or a 5 hp Briggs & Stratton sump pump capable of pump 50 gallons per minute.
- The time of day in which the diversion would occur (e.g., 7 P.M. - 12:00 A.M).

A DNR Water Management Specialist will visit your site or otherwise contact you within 72 hours of your request. You will be asked to complete a permit application form with all readily available information, including items listed above, in advance or during the site visit. You may print out the application and instruction packet at any time from the following link <http://dnr.wi.gov/org/water/fhp/waterway/permits/pack15.pdf>

As you know, drought conditions dry out lakes and streams as well as lands. Emergency irrigation permits will be granted if water is available and if the amount of water taken will not cause health hazards or irreversible damage to fisheries or other water users.